

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 JUSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 VA-01 /057 W

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R 090901Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7215

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANILA 9976

DEPT PASS: VA

E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RP, US

SUBJ: FILIPINO NURSES ACCUSED OF MURDER IN U.S.

REF: (A) MANILA 8926; (B) MANILA 8915

1. COURT DECISION TO GRANT NURSES BAIL AFTER THEY POSTED \$15,000 BOND APPEARS TO HAVE REASSURED MOST FILIPINOS ABOUT US JUSTICE. PRESS INTEREST HAS SUBSIDED SIGNIFICANTLY. CASE IS NO LONGER ON FRONT PAGES EVERY DAY BUT INTEREST REMAINS HIGH WITH "TIMES JOURNAL" GIVING IT MOST PLAY. INTEGRATED BAR ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT NERI AND FORMER SUPREME COURT JUSTICE AND SENATOR ESTANISLAO FERNANDEZ, WHO PLAN TO ASSIST IN NURSES' DEFENSE, HAVE BEEN MEETING WITH FORENSIC MEDICINE EXPERTS, POLICE OFFICIALS, ETC. TO "BRAINSTORM THE CASE." THEY HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO BE ON VERGE OF "LEAVING FOR DETROIT" FOR THE LAST WEEK.

2. PHILIPPINE NURSES ASSOCIATION IN CONCERT WITH PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND INTEGRATED BAR ASSOCIATION LAUNCHED DRIVE JULY 8 TO RAISE ONE MILLION PESOS TO DEFRAY LAWYERS' FEES AND OTHER EXPENSES INVOLVED IN TRIAL. INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF PHILIPPINE IMMIGRANTS ADOPTED  
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RESOLUTION ASKING ITS PRESIDENT TO RETAIN SERVICES

OF A "BRILLIANT CRIMINAL LAWYER" TO ASSIST IN CASE.  
MEANWHILE AIR MANILA, REPORTEDLY AT REQUEST OF JUSTICE  
SECRETARY ABAD SANTOS, HAS OFFERED FLY FAMILIES OF  
TWO NURSES TO DETROIT FOR TRIAL IN ORDER TO BOOST  
THEIR MORALE. FAMILY OF NURSE NARCISO HAS REPORTEDLY  
ACCEPTED BUT NOTHING HAS BEEN HEARD FROM FAMILY OF  
NURSE PEREZ.

3. COMMENT: WE ANTICIPATE MEDIA INTEREST WILL PICK  
UP CONSIDERABLY WHEN TRIAL ACTUALLY COMMENCES, BUT  
FOR THE MOMENT, PRESS IS MERCIFULLY FREE OF THE  
EMOTIONAL ANTI-AMERICAN COMMENT WHICH CHARACTERIZED INITIAL  
COVERAGE OF THE CASE. DESPITE CURRENT RESPITE, INTEREST  
IN CASE AMONG ORDINARY FILIPINOS REMAINS EXCEEDINGLY  
HIGH. RECENT VOLUNTEER SPEAKER, WHO IS LAWYER, TOLD  
EMBOFF THAT DURING HIS TALKS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE  
PHILIPPINES ONLY THING HIS AUDIENCES WANTED TO HEAR  
ABOUT WAS DETROIT NURSES. UNIVERSAL SENTIMENT WAS  
THAT THEY COULD NOT BE GUILTY AND SOMEHOW HAD BEEN  
VICTIMIZED.  
SULLIVAN

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## Message Attributes

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